

Serious ADVICE TO THE African and Indian Company.

IT is proposed that the Directors may be pleased to Call
not only the *General Council*, but as many of the *Partners*
of the Company as can be had now in time of *Parlia-
ment*; In Order to consult the common Concerns of the Com-
pany, where the *True Interest* of the Company may be *Calmly*
and *Seriously* considered, without *Passion* or *By-ends*; And
if by them, it be found expedient, the following Proposals
may be debated, agreed unto, or rejected, and that others
may be added, or put in their place.

1^{mo}. That a Dutiful and Earnest Address may be made to
the King and Parliament, Representing the Injuries done us
by *England*, in order to such Redress as the Nature of the
thing will bear, and for preventing of future Injuries.

2^{do}. That since hitherto we have received much *Loss*,
and little *Gain*, if any, by our being united under one Sov-
reign with *England*; And that the Opposition which occurs
in the Interest of two distinct Kingdoms under one Sovereign,
are not only *Embarassing*, but oft times *hurtful*, especially
to the weakest; That therefore the *Union* of the two King-
doms, either entirely, or at least as to mutual Trade amongst
themselves.

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themselves, may be now seriously intended, and speedily prosecuted, as hitherto it hath been only pretended, and Treated rather in Jest than Earnest, by which, great Evils that threaten *Brissels*, may be prevented : Or if this be impracticable, or on any Account rejected, The King and Parliament would be humbly Supplicated to Explicat our mutual Interests, so that we may be not be used by our Neighbours of *England*, during our Nominal Union with them, as Slaves in time of War, nor as Aliens in time of Peace : Of both which, hitherto we have had many sensible Experiments.

3rd. Since it was thought that we might Legally Possess a part of the Isthmus of *Ameria*, where the King of *Spain* pretended Right : Though he had Garrisons and Possessions nearly Adjacent ; On this Ground, that he was not in actual Possession of the very Place ; That now we may Address His Majesty, as King of *England*, to allow us the like Priviledge and Faculty in the Isles and Continent of *Ameria*, nearly Adjacent to the English Plantations, where we may have better Neighbourhood, and may claim more favour than from the Spaniard.

4th. That the Priviledges, granted to Our Company, having been Rendered ineffectual hitherto, by what Occured, That therefore now, we may Supplicat the King and Parliament, for a further Prorogation of the time of our Priviledges ; And likewise, in consideration of our very great loss, And that this Project of Ours tended more to the National advantage, than to any private Gain. *Viz* The settling of a Colonie in *Ameria*, in order so Vent our Native Products, by a Canal of Our own, and for bringing to us needfull things from Abroad, in return of our own Goods, and not by the wast of Our Stocks ; And what is for a Common Good, should be sustainerd for a Common Stock, That therefore,

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the King and Nation may Contribute to the Restoration
of Our Company; For which end it is humbly proposed.

It is proposed, that since Wine imported in so great quantity as is usual, is so far from Being of necessary use, That it may rather be esteemed superfluous, and yet a Prohibition of its Import absolutely is not acceptable to the People; That his Majesty may dispence with a 4th part of the Customs and Excise of Wines, Imported by the common Stock of the African Company.

This proposition will be the more acceptable to the Nation, If the Wines so favoured be restricted, only to the Wines Imported for the returns of their Exported Fish entirely; And whereof sufficient proof is made, that they are returned on the Company's Account, and by the product of their Exported Fish.

Or if additional custom of a 4th part more than is payed presently for Wines, be added on all Wines not Imported by the Company on the return foresaid.

It is owned, that this will give the Company the whole benefit of the importing of Wine, which is no hurtfull concession, since a prohibition of 3 parts of 4 of the Wine that is Imported will not only be Legal, but perhaps most fit; Yet since the generality of People are so desirous of its Import; And that its consumpt is not by the poor; But by those who have Money to spare; The importation of it may be the less grievous, That the profit thereof should go to support this Company, who whose designs and Trade will be so beneficial to the Nation; And by this, other Merchants will be thereby induced to Employ their Stocks on the other things which are necessary for the Nation, whereby the Nation may be better furnished in all these Materials, such as Timber, Iron, Salt for Fishing, Copper, Flax, Hemp, Soap, &c. materials for Sugar, &c. By which Manufactories

will certainly be increased : Idle hands Employed, and the poor sustained : Whereas, now Merchants Employ their Stocks upon Wines, and neglects the Materials of other Manufactories. So that the Priviledge of Importing of Wines, being only in the African Company's hands will both be some Advantage to the Company, and a General Good to the Nation.

And if the same Priviledge were granted to the Company on Tobacco, would be on the same Grounds desirable, and this would encourage the Company to bestow a great part of their Stock upon Fishery. And since the Design and Result of the African and Indian Trade will be without doubt to the Nation, in General ; And consequently to every individual person in it, and that in Justice a common Good should have a general Concurrence and Support ; And that the generality of the Nation, especially the Great Men and Burrows, have professed a great and Extraordinar Zeal for the Concerns of this Company ; And that private Persons have now Expenditure on their private Stocks above 200000 lib. Sterling on this design, albeit the profit was indeed the result of the Nation, and is not now to be reattempted without a considerable support from the Nation, Therefore,

That three Months Cess yearly, for 3 or 4 years, may be imposed in favours of this Company, with this provision, That at least a third part thereof be employed on Fishings on the ~~Scatish~~ Seas, whereby the Money so employed will indeed come to the common National profit, and almost to every Person in it ; In so much that if this Quota of Money were put in the hands of good Managers, it is positively asserted, that it could not be so advantageously Employed even for the particular Persons of the Nation who contribute this Cess, as it may be for promoting a Fisherie, and an Indian Trade in this Companies Hands, as the Sequel of this Paper will shew.

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And to the effect it may be Managed aright, it is proposed, that a General Council of the Company may be called presently, and three of every State, And some of the Kings Officers may join with the said Council, for establishing the Government thereof, in such Methods, and such Hands, as shall be by them judged most expedient, and that the Directors of the said Company thereafter shall be obliged to give Account of their Proceedings from time to time, that so the Nation may see how their Money is employed.

And to demonstrat, how much Benefit this may bring to the Nation in general, and that therefore the Nation should not grudge to encourage and sustain a Company, which hath already ventured so far for a National Concern, and will Undoubtedly continue so to do, if sustained. I shall take an Example from one Branch, *viz.* Fishery.

The Proposer and two or three other of his Friends, did in the latter end of August last, provide for making twelve Last of HERRINGS at Dumbar, and ordered for every Last two Barrel of French Salt, at six pound per Boll, and three Bolls of Scots Salt at two pound per Boll, and Cask and Hoops, which unmade, did cost about nine pound per Last, which is all the Expense that was bestowed on a Last, I mean, of Foreign Commoditie, in all amounting to 27 pound per Boll: For the Fish, the Cowpers, Wedges, the Servaues Hyre and Meat, and carrying them from Dumbar to Leith, was all bestowed on Scotsmen; So, was the payments made to the Fishers, the Fishers Boats, Nets, and Provisions were all Scots, and so was the price of the three Bolls of Scots Salt, *viz.* six pound; And consequently all the Expense on Foreign Goods for the Last, extended only to 21 pound. This Last was sold at Leith for ten pound the Barrel, inde per Last 120 pound, and at the same time the Bush Herring was sold at 15 pound the Barrel, which will extend to 180 pound Scots the

the Last, and yet in Bush fishing, there is no money expended on Foreign Commodities; But the said 21 pound per Last, is salted in the foreaid manner. By which it plainly appears, that we did give out but 21 pound of money upon our Lasts. Yet if this Last had been sold to a Foreigner, at Leith, &c. at the foreaid price of ten pound the Barrel, Scotland had gotten 99 pound from the Foreigner, which was pulled out of the Sea: And albeit, perhaps we who thus employ our money on this Fishing, made no exuberant profit, yet he who's 99 pound accrued to the Stock of Scotland, which in a 1000 Lasts so made, Scotland would have acquired of Additional Stock 99000 pound, in less than four Months time; and if 20000 Lasts were so taken, there would accrue to the Stock of Scotland thereby 990000 pound: And since the Herring, taken by Bush Fishing, are acquired at little more Expence on Foreign Goods, and yet are considerably more valuable than the Dumbar Herring, 500 Bushes at 30 Last per Bush, and Lading but twice in a year; make 30000 last; Which, sold at 14 lib. per Barrel, and deducing from that the price of the Foreign Salt, and Timber of the Cask; There will at least remain 12 lib. per Barrel free, which in 30000 Lasts cannot amount to less than Three Million, or 3000000 pound Scots, of Addition to the Stock of Scotland; in less than 6 Months time: But if the Bushes, should load thrice in a Season, (as in all probability they may, because of the nearness and convenientnes, of the Harbours both in the North and West Seas;) Then the Gain accruing to Scotland, would be four Million and Five Hundred Thousand pound Scots; And the same Fishers, Servants, and Boats, may be employed the other half Year, on White Fishing; Which all, who understand Fisheries, lays, is more valuable, than the Herring; And if that also, or the half thereof, were nearly acquired to Scotland; How soon would it raise this Nation, from its present poverty; and banish all Beggary, by Employing all hands,

hands, that could Work, and acquire an India at our Doors. And the Practicableness hereof, is made out, from an undoubted Experiment be our Neighbouring Nation, the Dutch, who have risen by this Trade: from the Rover States to be indeed, an Hogen Magen States: And beginning with five Bushes, in Enckhuysen, They have encased to above 1500 Bushes, consumed in Europe; And Europe will consume four times as muchif they had them.

Some Frivolously Object, that the Dutch take so many, and Cure them so well, what where will be neither Room nor Esteem for Our Fishery; To which I Answer, That there is Mercat in Europe and Afrique for twice as many as both Holland and We can take, For Meat and Drink never wanted Merchants. Andly, I offer these Considerations to your Serious Thoughts: The Hollanders, who have bad Harbour, and dear Provisions, and lie from the Morning Fishing above 200 Miles, and the School of Morning Swimming from Zealand to the Mouth of the Firth of Forth, are never in 200 Leagues from some convenient Seas Harbour, so that in a modest Computation We may Unload twice or thrice for their once, if not fourtimes: By which advantage alone, We are able to Underfull them, with Gain enough to Ourselves. But to this advantage, add the numbers of Our Idle People, which are had for small hire, the Cheapnes of Our Meat and Drink, the shortnes of time that our Loading is making, for what they must employ on every Loading of Theirs, We may perform in less time by a third, And so by these advantages, We may Sell cheaper than they can. And yet a greater then all these, We having the opportunity to use the same Hands, Men and Ships, in White Fishing for the other half of the Year, and the White Fishers lying all convenient near our Ports, will give Us advantages in Fishing, above what the Hollanders can have; So that if there be more Fish taken, than there be Mercat

for, the losſ must fall upon the *Hollanders*, and not upon Us. And for the Imaginary advantage they have, for Curing their Fish better than we do, Experience has Refuted that, For our last Fishery Company did Cure the Fish better than the *Hollanders* did, in the opinion of all Europe, and got better Price for their Fish ; And indeed the opportunity we have for performing a great part of that Work on Land, doth help us much to Cure them better, than the *Hollanders* can.

I crave leave to Entreat Our Company, earnestly to consider this Proposition, for Employing some considerable Stock on Fishery, for albait it do not bring an Exuberant Gain at every time, yet the Gain will be considerable frequent and constant, and ten per Cent or less, three or four times in the Year, (which the *Herring* and *White* Fishing betwixt them may afford) is a great Gain ; And mean while tho the Company Gain not above Eight per Cent, Eighty per Cent will be added to the Stock of *SCOTLAND* : And by this means, the Company will Re-quite to the Nation Tenfold, what the Nation will conferr upon them ; And that not for a Year two or three, but for this and succeeding Generations. And the constant Gain arising from this, may in so far (prove a constant Fond, for sustaining an *American* Collonie, in some Tenible Place, and suitable to Our Power and Stock : And Pray, consider and Compare this with fixing a Colony on the Expence of Our Capital Stock, with out a Future Fond to support them, or Probability of present Entertainment for them.)

Since the whole project of this *African* Company, did port a greater view of a General National good, then the advantage of particular Persons concerned therein ; And that the Company hath already, both Ventured and lost, no less then 33 Months Cess of the whole Nation, given out of a

few privat Purses ; And it being apparent, that this Company if they prosecute the designs of Fisherie, and SCOTS Manufactories, which will Improve the Nationall Stock, in manner abovementioned : And that by the product of their Labours, Care, and Direction, the Nation may be evidently enabled, and enriched, and the Company enabled also thereby, to establish an *American* Collony, and manadge an AFRICAN and INDIAN Trade : That for Capacitating this Company ; To prosecute so great a good for the Nation, and to repair in some measure their great Loss, on the National design ; And to evince, that the Representatiye of the Nation, are desirous to Support a common Good, and to evince, that these Patriots who are Justly incensed by our Nationall and Company's Loss, shew that their Zeal is on so generous an Account, and not for Humour or privat designs. Here they have an opportunity to demonstrat it.

It would appear that none can justly reclaim, at this National Contribution ; since it is evident, that this private Company hath already, and will yet bestow fare more than the gift from the Nation will amount to ; And yet the Nation in general will gain three to one, for what the whole Company will gain, as appears in the Compute of the Fisherie, where the Nation gains Ten to one, with the Company ; And I boldly say, were the whole three months Cels yearly, given by the Nation Employed on the Fisherie alone, the Company who Manages it on that Trade, would scarce have so much gain, as should be reasonably allowed on the Supervisors of such a Stock ; And the whole rest of the gain, which will be above 80, per cent, being expendit in, and on the Nation ; Could not be so equally distribut for the good, and use of the Nation, and every province thereof, were it in their own hands, as it will be, by putting

ting it for this end, and in this method, in the hands of the Company, for all of it will be Employed on working People, and in an Unintermittent Extent. And so it will be some Favour to the Company, a great increase of the Nation, of Trade, and a great Charity to the Poor: And an certain method for increase of Shipping and Seamen, and in short it will Undoubtedly put the Nation into that course, by which a most safe and Rigit and Strength, if ever it rise. And this Project crev'd, being of so Universal benefit, should indeed be rather post upon the Company, then beag'd by them.

These few Overtures and Considerations I hope shall receive many Additions from others, with which no Body shall be more ready to concur in with Cordial and Zeal, then I shall be, or to give any Reasons, if I differ in opinion. As I am well pleased, that others do by me, in what I have proposed for it is neither thanks nor applause, but the true good both of our Nation and Company. I aim at. Its true I shall be very fond to find usefull Overtures offered, which may Embarrass, or hindrefull over, which may imped the Effect, which I believe both the King and Parliament, intend for us; nor do I think that a greater prejudice can be done to the Nation and Company, in our present Circumstances, then are such Infirmities, which either ought not, or cannot be granted.



